

REMARKS

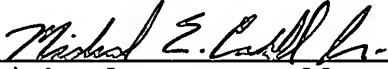
Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

The present application is a Continuation of co-pending application Serial No. 09/220,268. The Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate in the first Office Action that the information considered in the related earlier application has been reviewed and considered in the present application.

Additionally, the Applicants direct the Examiner to Fig. 3, which illustrates an optical fiber within a tube (not numbered), and page 8, ll. 5-6 of the Application. Applicants have not and do not admit to any of the assertions in any prior Office Action. This amendment is being filed without prejudice to any pending or cancelled claim. Allowance of all pending claims is believed to be warranted and is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is welcomed to telephone Applicants' representative to discuss the merits of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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